

MEMORANDUM

TO: Virendra Singh, Randy Hoskins

FROM: David Cary, Transportation Planner

RE: Summary of Meetings with Community Centers for 2006 Comp Plan/LRTP Update

DATE: February 20, 2006

CC: Marvin Krout, Karl Fredrickson, Roger Fidard, Kent Morgan, Mike Brienzo, Scott Cockrill, Steve Henrichsen, Sara Hartzell, Mike DeKalb, Larry Worth

As part of the update of the 2025 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), meetings were held between City-County staff and leaders of community centers representing various traditionally under-served members of the community. At each meeting the current Comprehensive Plan/LRTP update process was explained and planning and transportation topics pertinent to each community center's population were discussed and recorded. This effort was intended to both begin communication and build relationships with various segments of the community. This effort also was intended to meet federal requirements calling for such outreach to traditionally under-served members of the community as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan update.

Each meeting is summarized below with the name of the community center, the date the meeting was held, attendance at the meeting, and a description of the major planning and transportation issues discussed. Contact information is also provided for future coordination and discussions with representatives from each community center.

At each meeting a copy of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, including the LRTP, was provided to the community center representatives. Also provided were copies of the "Planning 101" general information flyer and "December [2005] Open Houses" flyer. When appropriate, translated versions of these information items were provided. At least one representative from the Public Works and Utilities Department-Engineering Services Division and the City-County Planning Department attended each meeting. Staff contact information was provided to community center representatives for future coordination.

Asian Community & Cultural Center

January 11, 2006

Modesta Putla, Executive Director and various staff members in attendance

477-3446

modesta@lincolnasiancenter.org

City/County Staff in Attendance: Virendra Singh, Scott Cockrill, Kent Morgan, David Cary

Topics Discussed:

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and LRTP was discussed along with the purpose and schedule of the update process. The various sections of the Plan were discussed, and an explanation of the pending StarTran Transit Development Plan study was provided. It was noted that translation and interpretation services have been provided and will be offered as part of this process. The versions of the flyers translated into Vietnamese were handed out.

Major transportation topics of interest included the Antelope Valley projects in general (schedule and impact on the local neighborhood) along with the need for improved transit services on 27th Street, 48th Street, and 40th Street respectively. The ability for people and traffic to move north and south along these routes was of particular concern (A Street to Highway 2), as was access to the various hospitals in Lincoln. Access to multi-purpose trails in the northern and northwest part of the city was identified as a concern. It was pointed out that the legibility of the bus routes and bus system as a whole was a concern, especially for those that do not speak English. As part of this comment it was asked if the pending transit study will include how the schedules, routes, and transfer centers were planned and set up. Staff responded by stating that these items will be covered in the study. A comment was made that although the buses may not be used by a large portion of the community in general, they are needed and are used by those that cannot afford to own and operate personal vehicles including people served by the Asian Community and Cultural Center.

A follow-up meeting was held with the Asian Community and Cultural Center on January 27, 2006, with Kent Morgan and David Cary of the Planning Department. Strategies for getting more input from members of the Asian community were discussed including using meetings of the senior's and the women's groups at the Center as a good opportunity to get information to and input from members of the community. Also noted were opportunities to hold meetings at the Buddhist Temple and the Vietnamese Catholic Church as locations for congregating. It was reiterated that the language barrier is significant (Vietnamese being the largest single Asian language used in Lincoln), and this was particularly evident with the StarTran bus services. Access to grocery stores is very important to the Asian community, as is access to schools including SECC and UNL. Often transportation needs within the Asian community are met through car sharing between friends and family. A major need is with translation services for immigration materials and paperwork.

Hispanic Community & Cultural Center

January 11, 2006

Carmela Sanchez de Jimenez, Executive Director

centrohispano@hispaniconline.com

City/County Staff in Attendance: Virendra Singh, Scott Cockrill, Kent Morgan, David Cary

Topics Discussed:

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and LRTP was discussed along with the purpose and schedule of the update process. The various sections of the Plan were discussed, and an explanation of the pending StarTran Transit Development Plan study was provided. It was noted that translation and interpretation services have been provided and will be offered as part of this process. The versions of the flyers translated into Spanish were handed out.

The question of availability of interpreters and translation services was asked and was answered by stating that the MPO is prepared to provide such services as needed throughout the Comp Plan/LRTP update process. It was left up to the Hispanic Community Center to decide how it would like to be involved and to what extent. Carmela requested to take some time to review the materials provided and to get back to City/County staff with any questions she may have at that time. It was also relayed to Carmela that there is a website for the update process and that Spanish is one of the languages that is provided for translation purposes. We were informed that family and youth activities are the focus of the Hispanic Community Center and that transportation needs are a big part of such activities.

Clyde Malone Community Center

January 19, 2006

Jesse Payne, Executive Director and other staff in attendance
474-1110

City/County Staff in Attendance: Virendra Singh, Kent Morgan, David Cary

Topics Discussed:

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and LRTP was discussed along with the purpose and schedule of the update process. The various sections of the Plan were discussed, and an explanation of the pending StarTran Transit Development Plan study was provided. It was noted that translation and interpretation services have been provided and will be offered as part of this process.

The Antelope Valley projects were of interest in general as they impact the local neighborhood both in the short-term and long-term. Other topics brought up that are of interest to the Malone Community Center include StarTran bus services (how they serve the community center and how they meet the needs of the constituency), the idea of installing bike lanes throughout the city, especially in light of the rising gas prices, and the idea of setting up commuter parking lots on the outskirts of the city and serving them with direct bus routes to employment and activity centers.

A specific topic of interest brought up by Mr. Payne was concern with parking enforcement near the corners of "R" Street and 21st Street, along with other intersections in the neighborhood. This concern deals with current conditions and future conditions after the Antelope Valley projects are completed. Virendra Singh said he would follow-up on this item specifically. Also brought up was the issue of the commute to work trip and how transit services can be improved to serve these trips both through frequency of service and hours of operation (nights and weekends). Also of concern was the neglect of streets in older parts of town for surfacing needs and street cleaning, especially in the Malone area and the Near South neighborhood.

The community served by the Malone Center feels victimized by past public projects such as the Northeast Radial project, University projects, and now the Antelope Valley projects. Related to the Antelope Valley projects, there is concern with possible increases in the cost of living in the immediate vicinity of the improvements and forcing current residents to move out of the neighborhood.

Faces of the Middle East/African Multi-Cultural Community Center

January 26, 2006

Multiple staff members representing Faces of the Middle East and Hilar Longun from the African Multi-Cultural Center in attendance

474-6223 (Faces of the Middle East), 477-6926 (African Multi-Cultural Community Center)

City/County Staff in Attendance: Virendra Singh and David Cary

Topics Discussed:

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and LRTP was discussed along with the purpose and schedule of the update process. The various sections of the Plan were discussed, and an explanation of the pending StarTran Transit Development Plan study was provided. It was noted that translation and interpretation services have been provided and will be offered as part of this process. The versions of the flyers translated into Arabic were handed out.

One specific issue discussed included the need for the State to restrict truck traffic on the Interstate to the right lane only unless they are passing slower vehicles. This would mainly be for safety reasons. Also, consideration should be given to senior citizens in particular who use public transit to get to and return from specific events such as citizenship training or health awareness days that are held at the community center on certain days of the week at certain times. Can StarTran serve 27th and 56th Streets down to Pine Lake Road better to help people get to and from shopping? There is a sense that there are not adequate sidewalks serving bus stops for children that have to use transit to get to and from school. Also, can bus service headways be improved from 60 minutes to better serve schools and their schedules? Can bus route schedules be more seasonal such as shorter headways during the school year and longer when school is not in session? Local parking needs for the community center is an issue - can shared parking be an option? (It was pointed out that this is likely an issue between private property owners.) It is typical for constituents of the community center to have no car or only one car and this places a strain on those families because the city is so car-oriented. Virendra Singh noted that there may be an opportunity to do some survey work to see what the issues are and that he would follow up on this item.

Indian Center, Inc.

February 1, 2006

Clyde Tyndall, Executive Director and Greg Donovan, Executive Assistant in attendance

438-5231

ctyndall@aol.com, gregsdonovan@yahoo.com

City/County Staff in Attendance: Virendra Singh and David Cary

Topics Discussed:

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and LRTP was discussed along with the purpose and schedule of the update process. The various sections of the Plan were discussed, and an explanation of the pending StarTran Transit Development Plan study was provided. It was noted that translation and interpretation services have been provided and will be offered as part of this process.

A question was asked about access to city vehicles as part of a grant program that the Indian

Center is applying for through the Lincoln workforce investment program. Staff referred them to the Urban Development Department for further information. There is a desire to reinvigorate senior activities at the center and transportation is an issue. Clyde has been on-board for only 7 months and Greg only 2 months so they both are looking to reinvigorate the center in general and identify what issues are most important. The staff at the Indian Center will be holding their own meetings in the near future to gather input from its constituency on what the issues really are. They will discuss with their Board and volunteer leaders any transportation concerns they have. There is regular coordination on transportation issues with the North Bottoms Neighborhood. The Sun Valley Boulevard study was pointed out in particular as an example of the Indian Center getting information through the North Bottoms Neighborhood. The site for the center is hemmed-in by the National Guard facility on the south, the Devaney Sports Complex on the east, Cornhusker Highway on the north, and I-180 on the west. Antelope Valley questions were asked and they were referred to Wayne Teton for additional information on project status. It was pointed out that the Native American community is not clustered in any one spot geographically like other minority groups may be. It was pointed out that many constituents use the UNL shuttle service for some of their transportation needs. There are general concerns with StarTran service levels and timing of routes.